THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The forest department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh has intimated that a fire incident had occurred in Sriharikota on 6th July, 2001. The area in question is not under the control of forest department, as in January 1979 an area of 10232.16 hectare was dereserved and handed over to Sriharikota (SHAR) authorities. The fire was limited to burning up of dried leaves/bushes and branches only, covering an area of about 8 sq.km. The fire was caused due to natural reasons, and such cases occasionally occur in dry summer conditions. No tall trees were burnt and hence no appreciable damage to the flora and fauna of the area was caused.

Shifting polluting industries from Delhi

2176. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently warned the Government of NCT of Delhi in connection with implementation of its order banning polluting industries in the capital;

(b) if so, whether Government have provided any help to the State Government to shift polluting industries from the capital;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that non-polluting industries are not harassed for the sake of polluting industries in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The orders of the Supreme Court are being implemented by the Government of NCT, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority under the supervision of the Union Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation. The Union Government has also interacted with the Governments of NCT and neighbouring States in connection with the shifting of identified industries. An Expert Committee has been set up by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation to examine any

representation received with respect to classification of the industry/ unit in order to ensure that non-polluting industries do not suffer.

Sewage treatment plants in metropolis

2177. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many sewage treatment plants are presently operating in metropolitan cities in India;

(b) what methodology is being adopted to dispose off the sludge formed during the treatment of sewage in these treatment plants; and

(c) how many sewage drains are directly opening into the Yamuna River in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There are 23 metropolitan cities in India as per 1991 census. Out of 23 metro cities, sewage treatment plants exist in 16 cities only. There are 46 sewage treatment plants in operation in these 16 metro cities.

(b) The sludge generated in sewage treatment plants is dried in sludge drying beds and used for application in agricultural fields and for horticulture purpose as manure. It is also used for filling of low lying areas and sold to public.

(c) There are a total of 17 drains directly opening in Yamuna in Delhi.

Sewage drainage into seven rivers in M.P.

2178. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken been under Seven Rivers Action Plan for Madhya Pradesh to minimise the drainage of sewage pipes directly into the seven rivers covered under the Central Plan; and

(b) how many sewage drains are opening directly into these seven rivers, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A scheme of pollution abatement of seven rivers